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Volume 12, Number 18

Serving New Jersey's African-American Community Since 1983

February 7 - February 13, 1996

0J's interview



WASHINGTON, DC—The Black Entertainment Television interview of O.J. Simpson on Wednesday, Jan. 24, played a role in the professionalization of their African-American colleagues, the National Association of Black Journalists said.

In a statement written as an op-ed piece, NABJ President Arthur Fennell said the skepticism that BET's Ed Gordon would conduct a "softball" interview with the acquitted murder suspect reflected a belief by some that black journalists are not up to the job. BET acquitted itself with professionalism, he said.

The complaints were "an extension of the shallow, so-called affirmative action debate that is taking place in many 'mainstream' newsrooms, such as The Washington Post, where anonymous white male reporters recently defamed — by name — reputable black journalists as unqualified minority hires who usurped jobs that would have gone, at least in theory, to yet another white male reporter."

"It wasn't asked, but it was implied: Can an African American be a black journalist? Black journalists are routinely held to higher standards," Fennell said.

NEW JERSEY WELFARE PLAN IS "TOUGH LOVE"

TRENTON—New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman has proposed an overhaul of the state's welfare program that would provide more state help to ease the transition to work and would let beneficiaries earn more outside income. Calling her proposal "tough love at its best," Gov. Whitman said the state would match this generosity with sternness. The proposal is being watched across the nation as a test case for correcting welfare programs' problems. Benefits would be limited to five years, recipients would have to stay current with child support payments, and teen-age recipients would have to stay in school and live with a parent or other adult.

FIRE DAMAGES NEWARK CHURCH

NEWARK—After a devastating fire, in the early hours on Tuesday, January 30, the doors of Zion Holy Church will temporarily be closed. With extensive damages to the lower and of the church, and in the pulp area of the upper part, Bishop Leonard Williams said that services will not be held until the damages could be repaired. At this time, the arson department believes that the cause of the fire was electrical and began in the kitchen. Bishop Williams says that they hope to be open again soon, but until the insurance company has assessed the damages and made their payment, the church would not know what additional funds would be needed. With the knowledge of the possible need of money, Bishop Williams also said they would be embarking on a campaign to raise those needed funds. Anyone interested in more information on helping the church, call Joy Williams 201-643-9557.

MAYOR'S TASK FORCE 'MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

PLAINFIELD—There was a unanimous decision to move forward with ideas and solutions from the representative of community groups — Ten Links (a male mentoring program) Safe Haven, Youth Outreach 2,000, School Based Youth Pro-

NI POOR LOOSE CHARITY CARE INSURANCE

by Kelly Howard

It is imperative that we find a solution to the charity care crisis. The health insurance industry makes millions upon millions of dollars in profit. It is not unfair to ask this industry to give back in order to fund Charity Care.

—Rev. Reginald Jackson

NEW JERSEY—You're sick or injured, needing medical attention and have no insurance. What should you do? Well you can always go to the hospital, they care for everyone. Or

they used to. Because of Whitman's elimination of Charity Care from her 1996 budget, many hospitals may have to put an end to caring for the uninsured. And until the New Jersey Legislature decides how they plan to find funding for the program, the hospitals can only hope for a silver lining to this very large cloud.

Because of a bitter bipartisan dispute in Trenton over how to finance it, the charity program is in danger, and many hospitals in the state are looking at how they plan to handle the present, and maybe long-term, loss of funds. "We hope that reason will prevail in this situation," said Fred Hays of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

While hope is prevalent among the 80 hospitals that will be affected by the cut, there is the realization that

they may have to discontinue caring for people without insurance or re-align money from other areas of the hospital budget to continue the program without state aid. "If funding is not eventually restored, management will re-evaluate the level of non-emergency care provided to the sick poor," stated in a press release from Elizabeth General Medical Center's.

The state charity payments may only make up a small percentage in most hospitals, but for some, such as Jersey City Medical Center, they are being hit with a large loss. And for Jersey City, this, following on the heels of the Medicaid cuts of last year is doubly devastating.

"We have been laying off people in small but consistent numbers since the loss to Medicaid funding last year," said Johnathan M. Metcalf, president of Liberty Health Care System, which manages Jersey City Medical Center. "Medicaid covered 20% of our year

See NJ POOR/ page 8

Delacy Davis to head black cops



(l-r) Essex Prosecutor Clifford Minor, Officer Delacy Davis, NEBP Northeast Region president, Ofcr. Andrew Roan, NYBP, NEBP NE Region vice president, Ofcr. Gary Griffin, East Orange Police Department, NEBP NE Region national delegate.

by Kelly Howard

EAST ORANGE—Realizing the problem is only half the battle; acting upon that realization is the other half. In hopes of acting upon the reality of the constantly straining relations between communities and police officers, and black and white officers, East Orange Police Officer Delacy Davis has major plans as newly appointed president of the northeast region of the National Black Police Association (NBPA).

In a ceremony at New Hope Baptist Church, East Orange, Davis, along with 13 others, was sworn into his new position by Essex County Prosecutor Clifford Minor, with the exact charge to "defend and protect" all citizens. Davis plans to do just that and stated that his major focus will be to put an "end to police brutality that has been thrust upon our communities."

Working within the community, the founder of the local Black Cops Against Police Brutality, has striven to help in bridging the gap between the community and the police department. "For the past two years, I have worked with the (Essex County) Prosecutor's Office on the Crisis Intervention Task Force," said Davis.

"With this group of volunteers; community leaders, police officers, etc., we have worked hard to handle situations in the community like the one that I had to deal with in Paterson (Lawrence Meyers' shooting)."

"Talking to the young people and dealing with their justified anger, is just part of what we can do," explained Davis. "I plan to encourage the NBPA to become a part of the Task Force or other things like it to establish that necessary contact with the community."

Contact with the community is only part of Davis' plans to work at implementing the 10-point plan adopted by the NBPA. This plan calls for police, especially black police, to pay more attention to community concerns and to dismantle the so-called "blue wall of silence" when dealing with cases of police brutality.

"The 10 points of our plan are there to put a stop to police violence and brutality," explained Davis, "and through notifying supervisors, local and national chapters of NBPA; assisting victims and educating the community and family members; and overall being a watchdog over law enforcement within our communities, we hope to put an end to this senselessness."

Restoration begins at historical slave house

by Melanie Burney

LANWSIDE (AP)—Movers are carefully lifting the Peter Mott House from its foundation to begin restoring the historic site where fugitive slaves sought shelter on the Underground Railroad.

The move is the first major step in the restoration of the two-story 19th century house. Built in 1845, it once faced demolition to make room for town houses, but historians rallied to preserve it.

Once the move is complete, a new foundation will be poured and

the house will be returned to its original location, said Linda Waller, president of the Lanwside Historic Society, which is heading the project.

"The house was really deteriorating," said Waller. Termites destroyed the first-floor frame; the foundation has buckled and some bricks crumbled.

Using heavy equipment, movers carefully began pulling the rickety 151-year-old house from its foundation.

"It's a shame we have to move it," said Margaret Westfield, a pres-

See SLAVE HOUSE/ page 3

Plainfield's sophisticated gents



PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield High School's "The Gentlemen's Club" will be featured in an upcoming issue of Magazine. The club for young men grades nine through twelve emphasizes academic excellence, self-respect and respect for others. These young men serve as big brothers to the Jr. Gentlemen's Club for elementary students and meet with their little brothers once a week. Pictured are some of the members of the Club. (Front row l-r) Douglas Bailey, Eric Asare, Shamel Tunnel, Rashawn Flemming, Michael Benbow, Stephen Jordan, George Benbow; (2nd row l-r) Kaseemah Barlow, Obed Louissaint, Adrian Conley, Garrick Smith, Terry Hill, William Mitchell, Lance Burrus, Farod Holman, Jarrod Watson; (Top row l-r) Jerome Foster, Imo O'Brien, Jason Dublin, Lloyd Gill, Edward Wilkins, Oscar Turk, Cleophus Jordan, Samori Josephs, and Kenny Glover. Not pictured are: Mitchell Worris, Raymond Billups, Amir Moses, Gary Hicks, Michael McCalla, Abraham Salmon, Langston Hannah, Jeremy Dudley, Brad Burnett, Brian Cadogan, Derrick Wallace, Joseph Brown, Vernon Washington, Oda Goodson, Jose Ortiz, Tierre Jackson, Jamal Timmons, Subahan Darby, George Byrd, Sean Jones, Anthony Winston, Aaron Morayn, Rashawn Bourne, Jeff Mitchell, and Jamal Johnson.

555 years in captivity

America, land of the free, home of the slave



Cinque was a Mendi chieftain who was kidnapped by the Spanish and led the slave revolt on the *Amistad* ship. After an extensive murder trial Cinque and the other surviving *Amistad* slaves, with the defense former U.S. President John Quincy Adams, were freed and declared free humans requiring the same civil rights as whites. Cinque and the other slaves finally returned to Africa.

by Kelly Howard

A City News continuing series for Black History Month

As turmoil brewed in the countries of Europe, and the opportunity of the new world opened up, people from all walks of life fled to the colonies for one form of freedom or another. Quakers, Whigs, Puritans, Tories, Lutherans, from political or religious harassment they fled to the opportunity to be who they were without being outcast or persecuted.

Yet while these sufferers of oppression sought release, they did not realize the need to bring with them individuals to provide labor and service for their homes.

At first they brought lower class or poor relations; whites as indentured servants, which failed to be a profitable venture. They then attempted to utilize the Indians, but because of their susceptibility to illnesses this too failed, leaving only

the Africans.

Because African slavery never proved a profitable venture in Europe, they did not at first regard them as a solution to their labor problem. From the beginning of the Europeans' exploits in the New World, Negroes had come as explorers, servants, slaves.

The first Africans to be brought to the British colonies, were neither solely for hard labor or as slaves. In 1619, twenty Africans arrived in Jamestown, Virginia, as indentured servants, and listed as such in census records until the mid-1600's, when many were freed from service and assigned land of their own.

Not all who came though were so fortunate, following their arrival was that of the first slaves, for the Dutch, the New York Hudson River Valley.

Over the next hundred years, Africans were brought to this new land

America, home of the slaves: 1619-1663

1619—Twenty black indentured servants arrive in Jamestown, VA.

1630—Massachusetts enacts a law protecting slaves who run away from their abusive owners.

1634—Louisianan French Catholics advocate education for blacks, including slaves.

1640—English colonies begin enacting punitive laws discouraging slaves and indentured servants from running away and sympathetic people from sheltering them.

1641—Legalizing slavery of "lawful" captives, Massachusetts sets precedent later followed by all New England colonies.

1642—In Virginia a person can be fined 20 pounds of tobacco for each night that he/she hides or gives refuge to a runaway slave.

1643—New England Confederation sponsors intercolonial agreement convicting a suspected runaway slave by a statement from a government magistrate.

1645—Triangle trade route begins, with ships sailing from Boston, bringing slaves from Africa to the West Indies for sugar, tobacco, and wine, to be exchanged for manufactured goods in Massachusetts.

1651—Rhode Island passes first colonial law limiting servitude, for both blacks and whites, to no more than 10 years.

1661—Virginia fugitive slave law gives legal recognition to slavery.

1662—Virginia declares mother's status determines a child's freedom.

1663—in Gloucester County, VA, a major slave revolt of both black and white indentured servants is foisted when a servant exposes the conspiracy. Maryland passes laws that all blacks brought into the colony are automatically slaves, and if a free white woman marries a black she is a slave as long as her husband lives.

See CAPTIVITY/ page 2

PEOPLE



Sessoms and Blaine win Billiards championship

Two East Orange senior citizens were recently recognized for their outstanding billiards play at a recent party in East Orange. Paul E. Blaine of the Brookside Billiard Club received first place honors while second place went to Ivory Sessions of the Prospect Park Club. The Seniors Billiards Tournament was created by Mayor Cardell Cooper, when he served as Director of Human Services in East Orange in 1979. To this day, the tournament is an annual event, and includes seniors from various buildings throughout the city. Senior citizens comprise nearly 25 percent of the city's population. Mayor Cardell Cooper (c) is pictured with the two winners Paul Blaine (l) and Ivory Sessions with his trophies.

Photo by Holmes Photography

Giving to the less fortunate



ASBURY PARK—Mary Mallory, coordinator of the Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church in Asbury Park Clothing Program displays some of the clothes and shoes given to the less fortunate of the community. Clothing is being given away the last Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Photo by Avery Grant

Nominations needed for community service award

NEWARK—United Way of Essex and West Hudson is seeking nominees for the organization's "William M. Ashley Community Service Award." Established in 1990, the award is named in honor of William Ashley, noted author, civil rights leader and founder of the Newark affiliate of the Urban League. It is presented each year at United Way's Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon.

The award was created to honor Ashby's legacy of service, as well as to recognize those individuals whose contributions to our community reflect the ideals of the outstanding leader after whom the award is named. According to Dick Lewin United Way president and CEO.

Last year's award recipient was Leah Weiss, director of Older Adult Resources Services. Nominations are also open to the public. Nomination forms and criteria can be obtained by contacting the United Way at 201-624-3300, ext. 240.

Deadline for nominations is February 9. The award will be presented at the United Way of Essex and West Hudson Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon in March 29th.

Volunteers needed

NEWARK—Saint Michael's Medical Center and Saint James Hospital are recruiting volunteers for their "Silver Spoon" service. Silver Spoon volunteers work from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. to help feed elderly patients. Orientation and training is provided and volunteers receive free parking and lunch on each day worked. For more information, call 201-673-1291 or 201-877-5621.

Newark celebrates King legacy by giving back to community



NEWARK—"A Day On, Not A Day Off" was the theme for the Coalition of Newark community service providers, agencies and volunteers who chose to celebrate Dr. King's birthday by serving breakfast and providing fellowship to three Newark homeless shelters. Congressman Donald Payne, and Councilwoman At-Large Mildred Crump joined International Youth Organization Executive Director Carolyn Wallace, NJ Youth Corps members, AmeriCorps unit from Community Agencies Corporation, Habitat for Humanity-Newark, International Institute of Jersey City, Catholic Community Services and other volunteers from United Jewish Federation Service in serving meals, reading to children, and speaking to over 400 shelter residents from three shelters. Pictured Councilwoman Crump addresses residents at United Community Corporation Shelter.

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As legal slavery passed, we entered into a permanent period of unemployment and underemployment from which we have yet to emerge.

— Julian Bond

Captivity

Continued from page 1

to build; to build a haven and home for those who sought refuge from the tyranny of the motherland. And as time went by, their status and treatment took a downside into something lower than what they had escaped.

From indentured servant, to bonded man or woman, to slave, the Africans identity decreased to equal property, such as a horse. Laws were passed removing freedoms of all sorts; work, travel, religion, and marriage, were just a few of the many areas that they could be punished for.

Do you know a black hero/heroine?

NEWARK—April 1, 1996 marks the 6th Annual Black Holocaust Memorial Day and the city of Newark has been chosen to host this year's event. Black Holocaust Memorial Day has been set aside to commemorate the lost lives of over 100 million slaves in slavery.

As part of this year's program, nominations for "Using Heroes and Heroines" are being accepted. A cash award will be presented to the winner at the "Awards Banquet" on Sunday, March 31, at the Robert Treat Hotel, Baltimore.

All entry nominations should be addressed to: The 6th Annual Black Holocaust Memorial Day Committee, P. O. Box 28316, Newark, New Jersey 07101-2484.

Nominations should include the name of individual being nominated and a short essay in 300 words or less telling why the nominee is an "Using Hero/Heroine."

Nominations must be received by February 15. Volunteers are also needed to serve on this year's planning committee. For additional information call 800-884-2671.

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Community Calendar

THURSDAYS MARCH 7

HACKENSACK—On My Own, an on-going support group for women who are separated, widowed, or reaching out for independence at the Career and Life Counseling Center. Meeting time at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 343-6000, ext. 2299.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

JERSEY CITY—"Problem Solving" a 10-hour course offered by HCCC to help educators design and effectively foster opportunities for problem solving with young children. Course runs from 7-9 p.m. every Wednesday. For more info call 201-714-2107.

CRANFORD—"Women on Weights" clinic for members of UCC fitness center to highlight the benefits of using free weights and dumbbells for exercising. The public is invited to enroll. For more info call Ms. Thomas at 908-709-7599.

THUR MARCH 31

NEW YORK—"Drawings from the Collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II" will be presented at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. For more info call 212-535-7710.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

VERONA—Metro district of the NJ Annual Rights Alliance monthly meeting at 7 p.m. at the Verona Public Library on Gould St. For more info call 908-486-9805.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

MAHWAH—"Social Workers and the Challenge of Violence Worldwide," two-part video conference will be broadcast live from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1 to 2:30 p.m. For more info call, please call 201-529-7649.

ROSELAND—"Ask A CPA" day in NJ. CPA volunteers will answer calls and provide free tax information related to 95 tax returns. For more info call 201-226-4494 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

MOUNTAINSIDE—Free seminar on getting into the computer age for non-profit arts and history organizations at the MountainSide Public Library. For more info call 908-558-3550.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

UNION—"Heartsaver" 3-hour life-saving course for seniors at Saint Barnabas and Union Hospitals at 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. for course price call St. Barnabas at 201-325-6003 or Union at 908-964-0444.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

NEW BRUNSWICK—A free public seminar on estate and federal income tax will be held at the NJ Law Center at 7 p.m. for more info call 908-937-7525.

FEBRUARY 16 & 17

Physical therapists will be on call to answer questions on women's health concerns including osteoporosis on a hotline from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. call 1-800-955-7648.

FEBRUARY 15 THRU APRIL 28

NEW YORK—"Faberje in America," will be on display at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. For more info call 212-535-7710.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

NEW YORK CITY—"Harlem Globetrotters in 'The World's Greatest Basketball Show' at Madison Square Garden for ticket call 212-465-0773.

EDISON—Toxmasters International

meets same Edison Public Library at 10 a.m. for more info call 1-800-SPEAK.

THRU FEBRUARY 20

PLAINFIELD—Literary Volunteers of America Plainfield chapter is hosting a Basic Literacy Tutor Training Workshop at the Plainfield Public Library every Tuesday. Workshop begins at 3:30 p.m. for more info call 908-755-7998.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

SOUTH ORANGE—"Building Your Family Through Infant Adoption," an educational forum being offered for prospective adoptive parents is being presented by Spence-Chapin Services for Family and Children at the Bard Community Center, 7 p.m. For more info call 201-275-1212.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

LINCROFT—"College and Career Day" for all ages, will be sponsored by the Lincroft Bible Church, from noon to 7 p.m. For more info call 908-747-1231.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

ORANGE—"The Seventh Annual Shades of Black Art Exhibit and Dr. Martin Luther King Human Rights Award Ceremony will be at the Rouzeau's Manor. For more info call the Mayor's office at 201-266-4005.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

EAST ORANGE—First Occupational Center of NJ Open House for the North Orange homes for seniors and disabled at 11 a.m. For more info call 201-326-7212.

THRU MARCH 18

NEWARK—Division of Recreation/Cultural Affairs (DORCA) offers overnight 3A & Summer Camp '96 for more info and registration call (DORCA) at 201-733-6454.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

CAMDEN—Shoestring PLUS Teacher Seminars in Creative Dramatics from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Rutgers University campus. Registration begins at 3:15 p.m. Pre-registration fee is \$25.

City News sautés Black History Month



Now, more than ever, we need to keep in tune with our history. It is a history of pain. It is a history of laughter. It is a history of joy. It is a history of creation. It is a history of challenge. It is a history of great people, past and present. A history of strong, proud, determined, BLACK people. And so it should always be remembered and celebrated.

NATION

Black unity legacy of Million Man March

National News
at a glanceBIAS IN THE
MARKETPLACE?

According to the Richmond Free Press, Virginia's NAACP chapter is putting pressure on Circuit City Stores Inc. to produce evidence that it does not discriminate after the chain's chairman and chief executive officer renewed a vow to "vigorously contest" those who say the Richmond-based company treats African-American employees unfairly. NAACP officials have called on Circuit City Chairman Richard L. Sharp in a letter to make public the company's equal opportunity report and the firm's personnel policy handbook. They also seek data on how much business the firm does with minority subcontractors and estimates of how much African-American consumers spent with the chain. The NAACP also wants information about the company's policy on advertising with minority media outlets. The NAACP accused Sharp of ducking a month-long request for a meeting. —RICHMOND, VA

RACIST REMARKS
"REPREHENSIBLE"

CBS entertainment chief Leslie Moonves says he has launched an investigation into "reprehensible" remarks about black viewers attributed to one of his late-night programming executives. The controversy centers around CBS executive John Pike, who was reported to have said black viewers are attracted to late-night sketch comedy because they have short attention spans; like TV that's free and can stay up late because they are unemployed. Pike denies making the statement but does acknowledge that he suggested that The State sketch comedy troupe - made up of white performers - broaden its appeal to minorities.

—NEW YORK, NY

MIKE TYSON TELLS
STRIPPING BEAUTY TO
"TAKE OFF"

Recently Mike Tyson was reported as being at the Vortigo club in New York City minding his own business, drinking juice, and chatting about the Koran when a female customer volunteered to be Tyson's hairy one. Pike by piece, the woman peeled off her clothing, dropping the layers in a pile at his feet. Finally, reports say, she stood there, virtually naked, inviting the boxer to do with her as he wished. Tyson wouldn't even go one round. "No offense," he reportedly told his private dancer, "but I'd appreciate it if you'd put your clothes back on. After what I've been through, I think you can understand."

—NEW YORK, NY

REPORT FINDS
WOMEN-OWNED
BUSINESSES
GROWING

Women have become a major entrepreneurial force in the U.S. economy and own about 7.7 million American businesses, according to a report prepared for President Clinton. The report said female-owned U.S. businesses are growing faster than other firms and according to the latest available number, employ about 35 percent more people in America than the Fortune 500 employ worldwide.

—WASHINGTON, DC

DR. HENRY FOSTER IS
BACK AS
PRESIDENTIAL
ADVISOR

Seven months after his nomination to become the nation's surgeon general collapsed in a controversy over abortion, Dr. Henry W. Foster, Jr. has been named by President Clinton as a "senior advisor" on teenage pregnancy. The new appointment has been discussed in the White House for months. The announcement was timed to coincide with the formation of a private group devoted to combating teenage pregnancy. Foster will serve as Clinton's "ambassador" on teenage pregnancy issues, carrying out frequent public appearances and working as a liaison with the group. Foster will be unpaid, working only about half time, his expenses will be covered by the government.

—WASHINGTON, DC

NORFOLK, VA (AP)—Black Americans need to work together to convert the spirit of the Million Man March into political and economic power, the march's national director said Monday.

"The black community can achieve greatness if we can achieve unity," Benjamin F. Chavis, a former National Association for the Advancement of Colored People executive director, said in a speech at Norfolk State University.

Chavis, who helped Nation of

Islam leader Louis Farrakhan put together the Million Man March on Washington last Oct. 16, gave the black history month kickoff address to 2,500 students and faculty at the historically black school.

He said the GOP's Contract with America "has been a contract on black Americans" that is moving the country backward in race relations.

"We cannot afford to be inactive," Chavis said, calling for the registering of 8 million new black voters this year. "We cannot afford to be

spectators to our own oppression."

Chavis, asked by reporters about his relationship with the controversial Farrakhan, said religious differences shouldn't divide blacks.

"The black community wants to see more unity among our leaders," he said. "There is so much work to be done. We've got enough for everybody to shoulder."

In the 3 1/2 months since the march, Chavis said, crime has dropped in minority communities, adoptions of black children have risen and people

who used to confront each other have begun embracing and learning to cooperate.

March officials hope to convert the new spirit into several goals, including expanding the black unity concept internationally, he said.

Chavis said blacks also need to refocus spending to support new and existing minority-owned businesses. Black consumer spending already amounts to \$450 billion a year in the United States, he said.

"We tend to underestimate the

potential economic power we already have in our hands," he said. "Our problem is we're not pooling our resources. We're not focusing our spending so that we get a return on what we spend."

Chavis said another march—this time, a million families—was planned this fall on the anniversary of last year's march, but it probably will be spread out over several locations.

"We've got the men standing up," he said. "Now it's a question of getting the men and women standing together, embracing the children."

Historical slave house

Continued from page 1

vation architect. "But we have no choice."

About a dozen curiosity seekers watched and took pictures as the 15-ton house was moved about 8 feet Tuesday. Normally, visitors are prohibited from the site.

"This is amazing," said Ameneh Rasheed, who lives nearby.

Moving the house will also allow archaeologists to search for 19th-century artifacts in a crawl space under the foundation, Waller said.

Waller said the entire restoration

will cost about \$280,000.

The wood-frame house is listed on the state and national registers of historic places. Mott, an early black landowner, is believed to have helped runaway slaves gain freedom through the underground railroad.

The underground railroad was a secret system of safe houses and hideouts maintained by people who favored the abolition of slavery. Historians believe Mott probably hid slaves in the basement, but few records were kept document-

ing the particulars of underground railroad stops.

In 1990, a developer planned to demolish the Mott residence, but agreed to wait while residents tried to raise funds to save it. The historical society in this tiny southern New Jersey community took ownership two years later.

Today, the four-room Mott house is surrounded by a wooden fence. It is located on a cul-de-sac surrounded by 22 modern townhomes.

"It almost wasn't there at all," said

Clarence Still, a local historian. "They had the bulldozers all set."

Waller said the historical society still needs to raise about \$90,000 to complete the restoration. It received about \$146,000 in matching grants from the New Jersey Historical Trust.

A borough of about 3,000 residents, Lawnside was founded as a free-black settlement. It was incorporated in 1926 as the only black-governed municipality in New Jersey.

Task force

Continued from page 1

gram—to combat the problems that put Plainfield youth at risk. That was the consensus at the first Mayor's Task Force round table discussion, held at the Plainfield Public Library, January 30 led by Nan Anderson, senior administrative analyst with the city of Plainfield and liaison to the task force.

Monthly meetings will continue and the community is invited to attend. The next Mayor's Task Force meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20. For time and location call Plainfield City Hall, 900-7533000.

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YORK (NJ)

YOUTHBEAT

Kids Calendar

WEDNESDAYS THRU SUNDAYS
NEWARK—Astronauts: The Star Travelers will be shown at the Newark Museum Dreyfus Planetarium, noon to 5 p.m. For more info call 201-596-6635.

THRU FEBRUARY 28
CRANFORD—A course entitled "Basic Baseball Skills" will be offered to children and adults at Union County College each Wednesday at 6 p.m. For more info call 960-709-7600.

ATTENTION—Elizabeth NAACP Youth Council presents its annual Black College Tour to Atlanta. Nine colleges in five days. Meals included. For dates and more info call Tasha 808-355-4884, or Daylyn 808-354-9074.

FEBRUARY 8 TO 10
NEW YORK—Sesame Street Live at the Paramount "When I Grow Up," featuring Big Bird, Bert & Ernie and the rest of the Sesame Street muppets. Showtime 10:30 a.m. Two additional shows will be performed on the 10th at 2 and 5:30 p.m. For ticket info call 212-465-6771.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9
RED BANK—Calls all poets for a poetry reading, school setting, for ages 5 to 100, at the Court Base Learning Center, 6-7:30 p.m. Food and music. For more info call USSC office 219-1867.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10
NEPTUNE—Little league registration begins for all children between ages 6 and 15, 9 a.m. to noon at Neptune Municipal Complex. For more info call 988-5200, ext. 279.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11
NEW YORK—Sesame Street Live at the Paramount "When I Grow Up," featuring Big Bird, Bert & Ernie and the rest of the Sesame Street muppets. Showtime 1 and 4 p.m. For ticket info call 212-465-6771.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13
NEW YORK—Sesame Street Live at the Paramount "When I Grow Up," featuring Big Bird, Bert & Ernie and the rest of the Sesame Street muppets. Showtime 10:30 a.m. For ticket info call 212-465-6771.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication

This Week in Black History

FEBRUARY 7

1883 - Ragtime pianist and composer Eubie Blake is born.

1926 - The first Negro History Week begins. Originated by Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

FEBRUARY 8

1894 - Congress repeals the Enforcement Act, making it easier for some to disenfranchise African American voters.

1925 - U.S. Government imprisons Marcus Garvey.

1944 - Harry S. Truman, Daily World in Atlanta, GA, is first black to attend a White House press conference.

1968 - Three South Carolina State students are killed during segregation protests in Orangeburg.

FEBRUARY 9

1906 - Poet and author Phillis Wheatley dies in Daylton, OH, at age 34.

1944 - Alice Walker, writer, is born.

1953 - Gary Franks, is born. He became the first African-American Republican Congressman since Oscar DePriest left office in 1934.

1964 - Arthur Ashe, becomes the first African American on U.S. Davis Cup Tennis Team.

1965 - Martin Luther King, Jr., meets with President Johnson to discuss black voting rights.

FEBRUARY 10

1780 - Seven African Americans challenge taxation without representation.

1927 - Leonie Price, internationally famous opera singer, is born in Laurel, MI.

1939 - Roberta Flack, Grammy award singer, is born in Asheville, NC.

1943 - Fitz Phi Beta, the national business and professional sorority, is incorporated in Detroit, MI.

1989 - Ronald H. Brown is elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

1992 - Alex Haley, Pulitzer Prize winning author of "Roots" and "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" dies.

FEBRUARY 11

1961 - Robert Weaver becomes the highest ranking African American in the federal government, when he is sworn as administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

1989 - Barbara C. Harris becomes first Anglican woman bishop.

1990 - Nelson Mandela is released from prison after 27 years.

1990 - James "Buster" Douglas defeats Mike Tyson in a stunning upset in Tokyo.

FEBRUARY 12

1793 - The first fugitive slave law is passed by Congress.

1996 - Isaac Burns Murphy, great American jockey, dies.

2000 - For a Lincoln birthday celebration, James Weldon Johnson writes the lyrics for "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

1900 - For a Lincoln birthday celebration, James Weldon Johnson writes the lyrics for "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

1900 - For a Lincoln birthday celebration, James Weldon Johnson writes the lyrics for "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

1909 - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is founded in New York.

1951 - Sergeant Cornelius H. Chalfont is posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery during the Korean War.

1983 - Eubie Blake, ragtime pianist and composer, dies at the age of 100 in New York City.

FEBRUARY 13

1746 - Absalom Jones, first African American Protestant Episcopal priest and co-founder of AME Zion church, is born.

1818 - Absalom Jones, the first African American Episcopal priest ordained in the US, dies in Philadelphia, PA.

1892 - The first African American performer, the World's Fair Colored Opera Company, appear at New York City's Carnegie Hall less than one year after the hall's opening.

1907 - Wendell P. Dabney establishes The Union, the Cincinnati, OH, newspaper.

1923 - First black professional basketball team, "The Renaissance," is organized.

1957 - The Southern Leadership Conference is founded at a meeting of ministers in New Orleans, LA. Martin Luther King, Jr. is elected first president.

1970 - Joseph L. Searles becomes the first African American member of the New York Stock Exchange.

FEBRUARY 14

1760 - Richard Allen, founder and first bishop of the AME Church, is born into slavery in Philadelphia, PA.

1817 - Frederick Douglass, orator, author, abolitionist, is born.

1879 - Blanche Bruce becomes the first African American to preside over U.S. Senate.

Sunday afternoons with the Newark Boys Chorus



Members of the Newark Boys Chorus

NEWARK—The Newark Boys Chorus is presenting a series of concerts in celebration of Black History Month. The concerts will be held on successive Sundays in various New Jersey churches.

On Sunday, February 11, the Chorus will entertain the community of Hackensack with a 4 p.m. concert at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Hackensack. The following Sunday, February 18, the Chorus will perform at the Cathedral of the Second Baptist Church in Perth Amboy at 6 p.m. The final concert will be at the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset at 3:30 p.m.

The music, arranged for the series, will relate the history of black people in the United States. The young male voices will tell of the hopes and the achievements, the joys and the sorrows of the black experience.

Some of the songs included in series will be *Jump Down, Spin Around*, *Minstrel Man* based on a Langston Hughes poem, and *Towns of Jamaica*, Musical arranger for the series is Howard A. Robert who has served as musical director for Broadway shows *The Wiz* and *Raisin* among others. The series is sponsored by a grant from AT&T. For additional information call 201-621-8900.

Newark Museum offers art workshops

NEWARK—The junior branch of the Newark Museum is offering special Black History Month workshops during February, inspired by the works of African-American artists featured in the museum's painting and sculpture collections.

Romare Bearden-Inspired Color will be the subject of this year's workshops. Children will have the opportunity to create original artworks to take home in this workshop. Sessions will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Workshop hours are 2, 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. daily.

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Billboard

THRU FEBRUARY 11
NEW BRUNSWICK—Crossroads Theatre Co. presents its production of "Jelly Roll," an award-winning, two-man cabaret show about the life of legendary ragtime jazz musician Jelly Roll Morton. For more info call 908-249-5591, ext. 15.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Star crossed lovers, mistaken identities and amorous intrigue abound in William Shakespeare's comedy "Twelfth Night" at the Philip J. Levin Theater on George Street. For more info call 908-932-7511.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11
ELIZABETH—"The Young and the Rubidul" based on the Josephine stories by Fitzgerald. Final show at the Elizabeth Playhouse. Showtime 2 p.m. For more info call 908-355-0077.

THRU FEBRUARY 25
PRINCETON—Greensboro-A Requiem by Emily Mann at the McCarter Theatre. For info call 609-683-8000.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13
NEW YORK CITY—Frankie Jackson's Soul Kitchen in Concert at the S.O.B.s. Showtime 11 p.m. For more info call 212-243-4940.

FEBRUARY 14 THRU MARCH 24
MILBURN—World Premier of Comfortable Shoes by Clint Holmes at the Paper Mill Playhouse. For info call 201-276-4343.

FEBRUARY 17 - MARCH 10
NEW BRUNSWICK—Cheap Sentiment by Emily Mann at the McCarter Theatre. For info call 609-246-7717.

MORRISTOWN—"B4 Charing Cross Road" at the Bickford Theatre at the Morris Museum. For info call 201-538-8089.

THRU FEBRUARY 18
SUMMIT—An exhibition, "Louis Cruz Azaceta: A Painter's Passage" at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, for more info call Audrey Palmatier at 908-273-9121.

NEW YORK—"King Lear" starring F. Murray Abraham at the Public Theatre. 425 Lafayette St. between Astor Pl. For more info call 212-260-2400.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication

Still waiting to exhale?

With all the talk that *Waiting to Exhale* has gotten, there is still a lot left unsaid. The floor is open at City News for your comments. Here are a few. Can you relate?

"I feel that Ms. McMillan did not take the best elements and best images from the book to make the movie. However, in looking at life and dating culture I think it was realistic. A lot of people say it was male bashing. I don't agree with any of that. I think what the movie was about was these women realizing that they had to find happiness in themselves before they could think about some man completing their life." **Ms. L.J.**

"When I read the book my first reaction to it was that it was a male bashing book, and I found myself continuing to read the book to find just one positive brother in the book. But I couldn't relate to the women's story at first. I guess because I am a man. But as the story went on I realized they were real people just like the men too. The only difference to me was that the men were painted with a broader brush than the women, and you didn't get much insight into why the males did what they did to the women. In that respect I think it was one-sided." **Mr. S.G.**

"In my personal opinion the movie was all right, though it left out a lot that the book had in it, especially the family values. Because the women were involved with their families, and the movie only showed Savannah dealing with her mother. They had strong older women in the book; Robin's mother was taking care of her father, who had Alzheimer's; and then there was Bernadine's mother who had a house and was taking care of herself, after her husband died. The movie missed out on showing those really strong black women. But I had read somewhere that what she (Terry McMillan) was trying to do was give us something more than what was in the book, for those who had read it, and for those who saw the movie and then read the book you got a wider picture of everything and not

just a male bashing type of thing." **Ms. S.B.**

"I went to see the movie with very close friends and family. After the movie was over, we all sat around at dinner and no one really discussed the picture. We enjoyed it while it was happening, but we kind of looked at each other, with our all knowing looks. And there we were: one of us hadn't had a good man in 20 years, one was being stalked by a former lover who used to shower her with diamonds and pearls. One of us spends days and nights counseling juvenile "delinquents" but still finds time to stop and smell the roses. And one of us married a vietnam vet with a test book case of post traumatic stress syndrome. We kind of looked at each other and thought about the movie. Of this women waiting for her million dollar settlement to come in, or the other one wondering what busier to wear. Suddenly all of that seemed very trivial and very light compared to real life." **Ms. M.H.**

"I thought the movie was very funny, very entertaining, very uplifting. However, at first I felt that as a black man, personally, was no where represented. Though I do realize there are a lot of black men that wear like those in the movie, I know quite a few myself. But I guess the type of black man I am is kind of boring for film. And though Wesley Snipes' character was a really nice guy, I could never marry a white woman. Yet beyond the fact that he was married to a white woman, he was a good man. He loved the woman he was married to, was faithful and loyal to her, and he never once disrespected Bernie. In that sense I feel I was represented." **Mr. E.J.**

"I liked the movie, its funny parts, and its 'Ohhh men' parts. Bernadine was my epitome of a strong take-no-crap woman. I really liked her. My sister asked me a very pertinent question regarding the women in the movie: 'It could relate to any one of

them completely?' I told her no, not completely, but I have experienced a little bit of some of the pain. Like loving a man whom you have set your whole world around only to find out that he is a lying cheating S.O.B. Right now someone very dear to me is going through a "Savannah syndrome." What makes me real angry with this person though is that she is still very young—early 20s—not yet graduated from college and has the world at her fingertips. However, she is worrying that she might end up alone so she settles for the very stressful and never satisfying situation of dating a married man. A man who at first told her that he was divorced, then later he was separated, but still living at home, and then he finally remembers that he is really 100 percent still married. This makes me want to holler WAKE UP! I am sure there are women out there who can say 'I definitely identify with Robin, Savannah, Bernie, or Gloria.'" **Ms. J.W.**

HBO salutes Black History Month

NEW YORK—As centerpiece to its Black History Month celebration, HBO will premiere a lineup of original programming featuring distinguished African-American talent—both in front and behind the camera.

The celebration, running through February 29 will also include extensive community outreach activities as well as an exciting consumer promotion.

America's Dream, starring Danny Glover, Wesley Snipes and Jasmine Guy, is a dramatic three-part anthology based on short stories written by renowned African-American writers. *Journey of the African-American Athlete*, a two-part documentary that looks at the struggle, influence and triumph of black athletes, features



Bernadine (Angela Bassett) finally exhaled after receiving a hefty divorce settlement from her husband played by Michael Beach.

Gerald Albright in Concert at Club Bené

SAYREVILLE—A contemporary jazz package entitled "Just The Saxes" featuring Gerald Albright, George Howard, Walter Beasley and Everett Harp will appear in concert at the Club Bené Dinner Theatre on Friday, February 16. The performance will be for one night with shows at 8 and 11 p.m. with an optional dinner being served at 6:30 and 10 p.m.

Atlantic Recording artist Gerald

Albright has consistently charted with previous LPs such as *Just Between Us*, *Bermuda Nights*, *Dream Come True*, *Live At Birdland West* and his latest LP *Smooth*. For reservations call Club Bené at 908-727-3000.

Food for thought

This week our book list for quality reading continues with *How Am I to Be Hard?* Let's continue to read, knowledge is power.

How Am I to Be Hard?

Letters of Lillian Smith
 Edited by Margaret Rose Gladney,
 University of Alabama

Lillian Smith (1897-1966) was perhaps the foremost southern white liberal of her day, speaking out forcefully for civil rights. A novelist and essayist, she was also a prolific letter writer. Her correspondents included Martin Luther King, Jr., Richard Wright, and the leadership of civil rights organizations including the NAACP, CORE, and SNCC. Margaret Rose Gladney, who has been studying Smith for nearly twenty years, reviewed more than 1,000 of Smith's letters before choosing 145 for inclusion in this book, which is now available in a new paperback edition. Gladney is also an expert on Smith's fiction, including the once-banned *Strange Fruit*, a novel of interracial love.

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HBO is proud to support the United Negro College Fund
<http://pathfinder.com/HBO/blackhistory>

BUSINESS

BUSINESS EXCHANGE COMMENTARY

Business Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

NEWARK—Regional Business Partnership (RBP) Community Development Series and Continental breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. at Beth Israel Medical Center. For more info call 201-242-6237.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7 THRU MARCH 6

JERSEY CITY—Problem Solving to help classroom professionals, from 7-9 p.m., sponsored by Hudson County College's Department of Continuing Education. For more info call 201-714-2107.

THRU FEBRUARY 9

DALLAS—Successful Business-to-Business Product Management Seminar, sponsored by the American Management Association. For more info call 1-800-226-9699.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

PICATINNY ARSENAL—Getting On-Line with Uncle Sam: Donning Business with the Government in the 21st Century, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., sponsored by NJ Small Business Development Center of Rutgers Graduate School of Management. For more info call 201-444-5950.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

EDISON—How to Service & Sell to Your Customers by Phone one day seminar at the Clarion Hotel & Towers sponsored by Dunn & Bradstreet. For more info call 212-692-6600.

RARITAN—Decision Making and Problem Solving subject of discussion for the TWIN Program of Central Jersey's "Women in Management" winter meetings at 700 U.S. Rt. 202 in Raritan. For more info call 908-756-3836.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

NEW YORK CITY—How to Service & Sell to Your Customers by Phone one day seminar at the Sherburne Hotel sponsored by Dunn & Bradstreet. For more info call 212-692-6600.

FEBRUARY 15 THRU 18

ORLANDO, FL—NAMC Annual Mid-Winter Conference, sponsored by the National Association of Minority Contractors. For more info call 202-347-8258.

Doin' right by our black corporate pioneers

by William Reed

He who undervalues himself is justly undervalued by others. Who among us can deny that we spend more time "disin" each other, we even do holding our kind in high esteem? Who in Black America can be counted on to pin a medal on those among this generation who have made valuable contributions for our race in the general economic sector, as well as through ownership of black businesses? At this point in our fitful struggle for economic parity, it is worthwhile and timely for many more of black society to ponder the question of, "How many among us have grown past the 'crabs in a barrel mentality' and are able to give credit and celebration to those who have sowed fruitful seeds of black enterprise?"

In commemoration of Black History Month, the Business Policy Review Council (BPRC), representing

African-American executives of Fortune 500 companies, recently honored five "pioneers" at a Corporate Pioneers Tribute in Washington, D.C. A part of the second wave of leaders in Corporate America, BPRC chairman, a black R.J. Reynolds' Vice President Benjamin Ruffin, says, "African-Americans who help break down color barriers and were early pioneers in Corporate America have most often remained unsung heroes and heroines. We want to give them public recognition and the main goal of our Corporate Pioneers Tribute."

Each a person of vision and perseverance, those honored by the BPRC's "Pioneer" Tribute were: Dr. Andrew Brimmer, appointed by President Lyndon Johnson as a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; J. Bruce Llewellyn, owner of the Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Co. and principal stockholder

and chairman of the ABC television network affiliate in Buffalo, N.Y.; Dr. Sybil Collins Mobley, Dean of the School of Business and Industry, Florida A&M University; and a member of the board of directors of Anheuser-Busch Companies; the Rev. Leon H. Sullivan, the first black to be named to the board of directors of General Motors and John H. Johnson, founder of the Johnson Publishing Company, the publishers of Ebony and Jet magazines.

Dr. Brimmer, who operates a economic and financial consulting company and is chairman of the board of civilians that currently have oversight over all budget matters of the government of the District of Columbia. He served as a professor in Harvard's Graduate School of Business in the early 1970s, but in a letter to President Gerald Ford in 1974,

Brimmer originated the suggestion of a 10 percent rebate of 1974 personal income taxes to stimulate the economy and help end the recession. Llewellyn is a distinguished entrepreneur and public official. In 1969, through a leveraged buyout, he bought Fedco Foods Corp., a chain of ten South Bronx, N.Y. food stores, after mortgaging his house and selling all he owned. In 1984, Llewellyn sold Fedco after it had become the nation's largest black-owned retail business operation with 29 supermarkets and 900 employees, grossing \$100 million per year.

Dr. Mobley has been the force behind the development of the School of Business and Industry at Florida A&M University, helping make it one of the nation's leading schools for the education of students for business.

Starting with his boycott of the Tastycake Co. in Philadelphia, Rev. Leon Sullivan has been an leader in promoting economic development for, and in the African-American community. He founded the Progress Investment Associates in Philadelphia, which built and now manages the largest shopping center constructed, owned and operated by blacks.

John H. Johnson is a multi-millionaire best known for publishing Ebony and Jet magazines. His other successful businesses, targeted primarily to blacks, include Fashion Fair Cosmetics, Ebone Cosmetics, Supreme Beauty Products, radio stations WJIC-FM/AM in Chicago and WLOU-AM in Louisville. Mr. Johnson is chief executive officer of the black-owned Supreme Life Insurance Company.

NJ poor

Continued from page 1

ity care, and we look to lose at least \$20 million with charity care."

While hospitals are trying to find other ways to handle this situation, the government is working hard to find something to temporarily and/or permanently continue funding. After the legislature refused to raise the "sin tax" to fund the program, Whitman removed it from her budget program. Now the question is this very budget problem is in the lap of the legislature.

Suggestions to continue the program include those offered by Senate Majority Leader John Bennett (R-Monmouth), of using portions of potential new hospital revenues; by Senate President Donald DiFrancesco (R-Union), of a one year continuation of the charity care funding system by diverting \$300 million from the state's Unemployment Insurance Compensation Trust Fund; and by Reverend Reginald Jackson, of the Black Minister's Council of New Jersey, of partially covering charity care with a

surcharge on health insurance carriers'.

"Insurance industry is perhaps the wealthiest industry in the state. Many of the health care carriers have redlined the urban hospitals putting them in precarious financial shape," said Jackson.

Jackson wants the agencies to both give back to the charity care fund and to change their redlining practices. In reference to the Republican claims that a fee or surcharge should not be imposed on health care carriers Jackson said, "They need to explain why it is so easy to take money from the unemployment fund, from the disability fund but not to take money from, perhaps, the wealthiest industry in the state."

At this time none of the currently suggested proposals are being enthusiastically supported, and with a deadline of June 30 to find funding for the program before it is totally discontinued, a decision will have to be made soon.

As I see

Continued from page 4

pivotal role in President Clinton's campaign for re-election.

History does repeat itself and whether we like it or not there is at least one potential candidate willing

to challenge Congressman Donald Payne with the backing to prove the thought should not be taken lightly.

On the Republican side, John Renna the venerable Essex County party chairman seems to have made a

remarkable recovery after heart surgery. Renna says the rumors of his being those who would like to take his place. Indeed, according to informed sources, John is looking better than he has "for years," and it is daring to go bring on those bad Democrats!

Trouble for blacks

Continued from page 4

March he has had strong and viable black leadership, but those who would keep us in service to them still want to keep us for themselves.

Those who intend to remain over us want to hinder our progress so we will think and act in their best interests, not our own. It's not enough for them to co-opt and compromise black leaders after those leaders begin to show the way. They want to neuter our leaders before they even develop. They want to pacify the breeding ground for our intellectual leaders of the future.

The principle is inviolable: self-determination and strong black leadership are fundamental requirements for our success. If we are ever to progress from the scrap heap of society to the top of society, we must first unite, and then let it make our own decisions about matters of importance to us, based on our own best interests!

In the 1970's, before Bakke, the Black Panther Party described the principle in a popular slogan of the day. Perhaps it should be recited at the next University of San Diego BSU meeting: "Black Power to Black People; Brown Power to Brown People; and Panther Power to the Vanguard." If Black Student Unions are to be anywhere near the vanguard of black progress and development, they must have Black leadership, period.

Black History Calendar

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

NEWARK—Play: Black America on Stage featuring the African Globe Studio Theatre at 2 p.m. for more info call 753-7725.

NEWARK—Film programs: "Home Away From Home" & "God Save Her A Mercedes Benz" at 2 p.m. and "Following the Drinking Quail" (children's film) at 3 p.m. in the Billy Johnson Auditorium. For more info call 596-6550.

PRINCETON—Performance of "Greensboro" at McCarter Theatre. Showtime at 4 and 8:30 p.m. to order tickets call 608-665-6000.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

NEWARK—Tap Dance Kid: Davion Glover in concert at 1 and 3 p.m. in the Newark Museum's Billy Johnson Auditorium. Tickets may be purchased at the south wing desk. For more info call 201-596-6638.

PRINCETON—Performance of "Greensboro" at McCarter Theatre. Showtime at 2 p.m. to order tickets call 608-665-6000.

HACKENSACK—Newark Boys Chorus in concert, 4 p.m. at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church. For more info call 201-489-6888.

CRAWFORD—The Women of St. Mark's A.M.E. presents Betty Vaughn in concert, 4 p.m. at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church. For more info call Rita Langford at 201-596-6638.

908-819-0417 or 908-636-2397

TOMS RIVER—Black Summit '96 presents a discussion with entrepreneur Tony Brown at Ocean County College Fine Arts Theatre at 2 p.m. for ticket info call Rev. Wilcox at 908-240-1306.

LAKEWOOD—Black Summit '96 presents a discussion with entrepreneur Tony Brown at Woodlake Country Club at 7:30 p.m. for ticket info call Phenomena Jones at 908-255-0358.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

WAYNE—"Sankofa" film screening and discussion with actress Yafumi Okunada in the Sarah Byrd Askew Library Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

JERSEY CITY—"African-American Women Artists" lecture by Dr. Jeannette Parsons, JCSG assistant professor of literary education. The program will focus on Maya Angelou, Alice Walker and Toni Morrison.

EDISON—"The Relatives of Parenting," panel discussion noon in Rm. 319. For more info call 908-906-2556.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

WAYNE—"Daughters of the Dust" and discussion with Donna Dedy in student center ballroom at 6:30 p.m.

EDISON—"Inspiring Entrepreneurship in Our Youth" lecture by Vincent Stallings at Middlesex County College noon in Rm. 319. For more info call 908-906-2556.

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The Public Affairs Program for the African American Community



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LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF PLAINFIELD
INVITATION FOR BIDS
CONTRACT 93-P-21 - PHASE 3

81 - Electrical of ribbon metal roof and roof panels and gutters on existing and new buildings in this specification will be in accordance with the specifications of the City of Plainfield, New Jersey.

82 - ELECTRICAL WORK
 83 - PLUMBING WORK
 84 - REMOVED BID - ALL WORK

The City of Plainfield will receive sealed bids to contract no. 93-P-21, phase 3 in four parts, each a separate bid, as follows: (a) bid no. 81, electrical work; (b) bid no. 82, electrical work; (c) bid no. 83, plumbing work; (d) bid no. 84, removed bid. The bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., prevailing local time on February 13, 1996 at the City Hall, 1515 Washington Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07050, at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The following is a schedule of critical dates for the bidding of this contract:

DATE TIME EVENT
 2/29/96 10 A.M. bid package available for pickup
 2/29/96 5 P.M. pre-bid meeting at City Hall
 2/29/96 12:30 P.M. return qualifications questionnaire
 3/2/96 2:30 P.M. public opening of City Hall lobby
 Bids packages, including a bidder's qualifications questionnaire, will be available only for a limited time and must be picked up and returned to the City of Plainfield, New Jersey, at the address indicated in the advertisement. All bidder's qualification information must be completed and submitted on time on the date specified.

Bids are invited for all supervision, labor, materials, equipment, delivery and services concerning bid #1, bid #2, bid #3 and bid #4. The above contract will be performed in accordance with the contract documents and specifications which are to be on file in the engineering division office. All workmanship and materials shall be in accordance with the current New Jersey and national standards and specifications for road and bridge construction, when applicable.

A copy of the contract documents and bidder's qualification questionnaire will be obtained upon a non-refundable payment of \$50.00 of the five dollars (\$75.00) as a check or bank draft, payable to the City of Plainfield, from the engineering division office, City Hall, 1515 Washington Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07050.

Attention is directed to the fact that not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the contract documents shall be paid to all employees. The City of Plainfield does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, age or national origin in its employment. Any employee not so discriminated against because of their race, color, sex, religion, age or national origin.

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of the City of Plainfield (NJAC 17:27).
 The City of Plainfield reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities or informality in bids, or to accept any bid as if it had been the best interest of the City of Plainfield. The City of Plainfield's qualifications information provided by the bidders shall also be considered in the selection process.

Bids may be held by the City for a period not to exceed sixty (60) calendar days from the date of opening of the bids for the items furnished, thereon.

LEGAL NOTICE
KANT'S PATRIOT
CITY OF PLAINFIELD
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CITY NEWS SERVICE DIRECTORY

EDDIE'S Plumbing & Heating Specialist, Inc.
 609-694-0368
 881 Gates Ave. #106
 Jersey City, NJ 07310

BYERS JANITORIAL SERVICE & SUPPLIES INC.
 MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND INITIAL CLEANUP
 1160 STATE ST.
 Park Ave., NJ 08861

Unique Security Guard Service, Inc.
 700 Park Ave., St. 301
 Plainfield, NJ 07050
 908-756-8650
 908-756-0621
 908-756-0621
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Sign Graphics/Frame Display, Inc.
 530 Palisades Ave.
 Jersey City, NJ 07307
 201-459-2667
 Quick color poster frame-wooden, aluminum, stainless steel, and more. All types of signs, commercial, and home.

RAM Termite & Pest Control
 87 Frank St.
 Somerset, NJ 08873
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Salon Furniture
 We buy & sell new and used furniture. Installation and financing.
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SALES
 Continued growth has increased sales prices who possess sales/closing experience. You will receive 10% commission on all sales. In addition, we provide:
 - Extensive training
 - Generous benefits
 - Promotion from within
 - Commission earning potential of \$50,000+
 To become a member of our sales team please call G. Almar at 1-800-333-5627, ext. 6453.

INSIDE SALES
 City News has an immediate opening for an inside sales representative. Responsibilities include: selling incoming and outgoing calls from prospect lists and telemarketing for directors. Must be organized, goal oriented and able to type 45 words per minute. Telemarketing experience is preferred. Send resume to: 144 North Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07050

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CALL NOW
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NEWARK-KAN DONALD'S SHOPPING CENTER
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JACK Z. HARKAVY & CO. INC.
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CLERK/ TYPIST POSITION
 Full time clerk/typist position for Township of Clark, Municipal Court. Legal assistant, paralegal and/or experience with court administration preferred. Excellent benefits package. Send resume to Clark Township, 144 North Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07050

SECRETARY
 P/T for Library Board, 1 eve per month, attend meeting and prepare minutes. Send resume by Jan. 22 to: Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., Clark, NJ 07066. Union County residents are encouraged to apply. EOE/AAE

PROOFREADER
 Successful candidate for this position will have 2+ years of proofreading experience. Job requires patience, attention to detail, flexibility, and ability to work with a team and meet deadlines. Strong grammar and language skills are essential. Send resume to: 144 North Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07050

CITY OF CLIFTON FIREFIGHTER EXAMINATION ATTENTION RESIDENTS OF NEW JERSEY
 On January 29, 1996, the New Jersey Department of Personnel announced the results of the examination for the position of Firefighter, for the City of Clifton. This examination is open to the residents of the State of New Jersey, who meet the following minimum requirements: 1. Be a citizen of the United States; 2. Possess a High School Diploma or a High School Equivalency certificate. If you graduate by June 1, 1996, you are eligible to file an application. This announcement. Possess a valid New Jersey drivers license, and are at least 18 years of age as of February 29, 1996. Applications must be received at the following locations: Clifton City Hall, 900 Clifton Ave., Clifton Fire Stations, and Clifton Public Libraries, and also in the lobby of the State Office Building, 151 Hudson St. in Newark, NJ. Applications must be postmarked or delivered to the Department of Personnel offices in Trenton, prior to the closing date for filing applications, February 29, 1996. The City of Clifton is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

REPORTER
 City News has an immediate opening for an aggressive experienced reporter. Position requires a minimum of two years of experience in newspaper journalism and a Bachelor of Arts in journalism or communications. Must be able to produce a high volume of work. A must. Experience with urban affairs and community development. Send resume to: 144 North Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07050

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CLASSIFIEDS

EDUCATION
 Inner city alternative high school has positions available: Assistant Principal, English Teacher, Health Teacher and Substitute teachers in all subjects. Salary commensurate with experience. Family of Services, Personnel Dept. 179 Van Buren Street, Newark, NJ 07105, fax (201) 589-0663.

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
 The State of New Jersey, Juvenile Justice Commission is searching for a Director to oversee the operations of the Commission. The Director will manage the development and delivery of all vocational, academic and other educational and training programs to meet the needs of the student population in programs under the jurisdiction of the Commission. Knowledge of alternative education programs, juvenile justice, and non-traditional approaches to education are essential. Qualifications include a master's degree in education or a related field and certification as a Teacher, Principal, Superintendent, School Administrator, or Juvenile Justice Administrator issued by the New Jersey Department of Education. Also, eight years of education experience, five years of which shall have been in supervisory positions. Candidates are required. Candidates should send their resume and cover letter by February 16, 1996 to: Sal Marullo, Chief Administrative Officer, Juvenile Justice Commission, Richard J. Hughes Justice Center, Trenton, NJ 08625 EOE/AAE

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RECREATIONAL ASSISTANT-Part Time
 Seeking individuals to assist the Authority's Social Worker in administering the "Family of Services" program. For information contact: Housing Office of the State of New Jersey, 700 County Avenue, Secaucus, New Jersey 07094 201-987-2957

BOOKKEEPER Full-Time
 Experienced in keeping financial records for a Public Housing Authority. Must have experience in working with computers. Salary and benefits. For information contact: Housing Office of the State of New Jersey, 700 County Avenue, Secaucus, New Jersey 07094 201-987-2957

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RECREATIONAL ASSISTANT-Part Time
 Seeking individuals to assist the Authority's Social Worker in administering

NO FAT
NO COMPROMISES



Oh
yes!

IT'S ABOUT TASTE.
IT'S ABOUT TIME.

What would you say to potato chips with the great taste you love-but with no fat and half the calories? Oh yes! Now you can have just that! Because on January 24, 1996, the FDA issued a rule allowing the use of olestra in salted snacks and crackers. Olestra is a unique ingredient that replaces ordinary fat in foods. Olean® (pronounced o-LEEN) is Procter & Gamble's brand name for olestra.

Olean is made starting with everyday ingredients-vegetable oil and table sugar, combined in a breakthrough new way to give you the rich taste and texture you expect from full-fat foods. But, incredibly, Olean adds no fat and no calories.

ONE OUNCE SERVING	FAT	CALORIES
POTATO CHIPS WITH OLEAN	0g	70
REGULAR POTATO CHIPS	10g	150

Source: USDA Handbook #8, Procter & Gamble

So you're a little skeptical? Well, most people are-until they taste foods made with Olean. Then comes the "Oh yes!"

Some of your favorite snack chips and crackers, made with Olean, should be available in the next few months in introductory markets.

For more facts and information call: 1-800-333-9523.

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NIGERIA



A Closer Look



NIGERIA: A CLOSER LOOK

The People of Nigeria

Nigeria is a massive country about 115 million people comprising 300 ethnic groups speaking 400 distinct languages. In size, it is two and a half times the size of California. The diversity of Nigeria is reflected in its rainbow of ethnic groups and complexions, views and counter-views, stretching from the fringes of the Sahara Desert in the North to the Atlantic waters in the South.

With one of the highest literacy rates in Africa, Nigeria has the largest and most vocal press in Africa, publishing views and opinions freely expressed. However, while debates are impassioned and views varied, Nigerians largely remain united in a single, unswerving threat: ONE NIGERIA. It is this oneness that has been the guiding posts of Nigeria since its independence even as it embarked upon state creation exercises in a bid to perfect its federal structure.

Since joining the United Nations in 1960, Nigeria has consistently committed itself to the cause of peace keeping and peace making, Nigeria sent its first troops to participate in the UN peace mission in the Congo, only days after its independence. In *World Citizen*, a former advisor to Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Carter, Prof. Ruth Morgenthau says Nigeria, "is among the most committed countries to maintaining the degree of international order that the present UN decision making process permits."

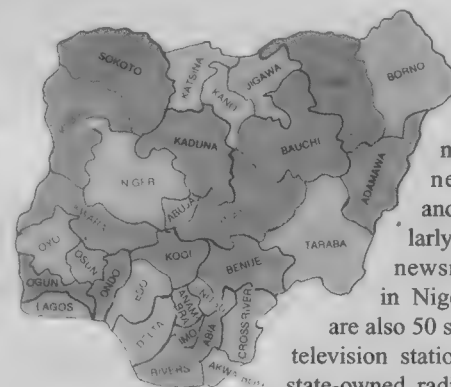
Today, Nigeria is the leading contributor in international peace keeping from Africa. Of the 80 countries contributing troops to over 20 global peace keeping operations, Nigeria has more than 7,000 men keeping the peace outside its borders in places such as Bosnia Herzegovina, Iraq, Kuwait, Western Sahara, Liberia, Angola, Rwanda. Nigerian troops have also served in Somalia, Mozambique and Cambodia, The Congo, Chad, Lebanon, India, Pakistan (Kashmir). The core elements in global peace keeping are the men and women risking their lives in the interest of peace. Nigeria has deployed over 100,000 men and women of its Armed Forces to peace keeping in its 35 years of independence.

NIGERIA: The Media Giant in Africa

In the whole of Africa, the undisputable leader in media has always been Nigeria. Nigeria is one of only five countries which had more than ten newspapers in 1990, according to UNESCO. Of those five, Nigeria maintained a clear lead - 31 daily newspapers, compared to

South Africa with 22, Egypt with 14, Morocco with 13, and Algeria with 10.

By 1993, while the number of newspapers in most African countries were declining, news publications actually ballooned in Nigeria, a trend that represented the highest growth rate in Africa.



Today, there are more than 66 major newspapers and 60 regularly published newsmagazines in Nigeria. There are also 50 state-owned television stations and 40 state-owned radio stations.

Some of the 14 licensed private television stations have already commenced operation.

NIGERIA: Leadership in Education

There are more than 18 million students in Nigerian schools at all levels. That is more than the school population of South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, Egypt, Morocco, Tanzania, France, Britain, and Spain.

The country adopted a 6-3-3-4 educational policy in 1982. The policy requires six years primary education, a two-tier (3-year junior, 3-year senior) secondary education and four years of University education. There are 31 universities in Nigeria today.

Apart from fully funding primary education all around the country, the government also runs secondary schools, and funds technical colleges, polytechnics and universities in all 30 states of Nigeria. In addition, there are hundreds of privately-owned schools duly approved by government for the benefit of those who prefer to send their children to private schools.

While literacy rate stands at about 51%, one of the highest in Africa, Nigeria's goal is to eradicate illiteracy in the shortest time possible.

NIGERIA: Leadership in Sports

Nigeria has made its mark in global sports competition. Its national soccer team, the Super Eagles, is adjudged

the best in Africa and one of the best ten in the world. Nigeria won the World Cup in the Under-16 category in China in 1985 and 1993 in Japan.

Nigeria's Under-20 soccer team won the bronze medal in the Junior World Cup competition in the Soviet Union in 1985 and the silver medal in Saudi Arabia in 1989. In 1994 World Cup competition, Nigeria led its group to qualify for the second round.

Dozens of Nigerians are today professional athletes in Europe and America. A Nigerian based in the U.S., Hakeem Olajuwon, is today considered the best basketball player in the world.

PETROLEUM: Nigeria's Economic Bedrock

Nigeria's oil well was discovered in 1908. Today, oil is the bedrock of Nigeria's economic development, accounting for more than 80% of its foreign exchange earnings.

Nigeria's oil reserves are the ninth largest in the world. In 1987, crude oil reserves totalled 16 billion barrels. It is projected that by 1997, the reserves could rise to 20 billion barrels. Nigeria is a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Indeed, the Secretary General of OPEC, Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, is Nigerian.

Nigeria also has vast, largely unexplored, natural gas reserves, the world's fifth largest. Dozens of European and American businesses are currently exploring joint venture businesses in gas production. But Nigerians themselves now realize the danger of over-dependence on the oil sector. In the past few years, deliberate attempts have been made to concentrate on agriculture and encourage manufacturing. Various strategies have been established to assist farmers at every level, resulting in impressive cutbacks in Nigeria's food import bills while changes in Nigeria's industrial policy are encouraging foreign participation in manufacturing.

ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Nigeria is the largest and most heterogenous nation in Africa. Apart from this large market and abundant and skilled labor force, Nigeria has a greater variety of mineral resources than any African country. The minerals include iron, columbite, coal, lead, zinc, zircon, uranium, manganese, phosphate, and petroleum.

It is the largest U.S. sub-Saharan African trading partner. Over 19% of U.S. exports to the region goes to Nigeria which also accounts for 10% of the U.S. oil



imports. The volume of U.S. trade with Nigeria is bound to increase within the next few years, as the huge Nigerian market extends to West Africa with the implementation of a regional liberalization system which provides for progressive elimination of trade barriers in West Africa.

U.S. investment in Nigeria was worth 4 billion dollars in 1994, 90% of it in the petroleum sector. It is expected to increase with the recent and continuing discovery of offshore and on-shore petroleum deposits along the coast and in the interior of Nigeria.

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

The Nigerian Government is implementing an economic recovery program involving guided deregulation of the foreign exchange and interest rates regimes, greater role for the private sector, increasing industrial production, revitalizing agriculture and mining of solid minerals. The Government has adopted an open door policy for foreign investment in any enterprise. It provides generous tax incentives and opportunities for repatriation of capital, profits and dividends, ensures protection of investment and allows the opening of domiciliary accounts which enables foreigners in Nigeria to maintain export proceeds in foreign currency.

The Nigerian Government is also willing to enter into bilateral agreements with foreign countries to ensure mutual protection of investment. A similar agreement with the United States is being negotiated. With the abrogation of the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree, the way has now been paved for reaching the agreement. Abrogated also is the Exchange Control Act of 1962. The two laws have been replaced by two decrees whose effect is to promote rather than restrict foreign investment: The Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission Decree which facilitates investment and the Nigerian Foreign Exchange Monitoring Decree which guarantees unimpeded transfer of funds in foreign currency in and out the country.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

There are tremendous opportunities for investment in Nigeria, especially with the Government's decision to diversify its resource base into mining of solid minerals, revitalization of agriculture and increase in industrial production.

In the agriculture sector, which is still the backbone of Nigeria's economy, the policy objectives are to increase food production to meet the requirement of a growing population, provide raw materials for our industries and grow more exportable cash crops to diversify the sources of our foreign exchange earnings.

An appreciable proportion of total livestock and fish in Nigeria is imported. To meet the shortfall, all aspects of livestock and fisheries offer investment opportunities. In

the forestry sub-sector, there is a tremendous scope for investment in establishing plantation and downstream investment in the production of plywood, board and furniture.

In the area of water resources, avenues are open to foreigners in the development of bore holes for water supply, dam construction, underground water resources development, rural water supply and improvement of river channels.

The petroleum sector has the highest growth rate. Petroleum was discovered in 1958 with a production capacity of 5,000 barrels per day rising to about 2.3 million barrels per day by 1979. But, OPEC guidelines restrict the production to approximately 1.8 million barrels. There are upstream opportunities for investors in exploration and production. Downstream activities include gas treatment and crude oil conversion into petrochemical products as well as transportation and marketing of the products. Opportunities exist for the construction of oil refineries under customs bond with adequate facilities for exports especially to the neighboring African countries. There are also tremendous opportunities for small joint ventures in manufacturing of oil by-products with foreign technical partners. Such ventures include warehousing arrangement that would ensure continuity of supply at competitive prices.

Nigeria is preparing to implement a Natural Liquefied Gas Project (NLG) with the participation of the United States M.W. Kellogg Company.

AIRPORT SECURITY

Prospects for investment and trade between Nigeria and the United States would be enhanced by the resumption of direct commercial flights linking the two countries. Now that the Nigerian airport authorities have met all the security requirements by the United States Federal Aviation Authority, Nigerians look forward to their early resumption of direct commercial flights.

COOPERATION AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING

A vital area of cooperation between Nigeria and the United States is combatting international drug trafficking. Though not a drug-producing or drug-processing nation, Nigeria is concerned with the use of its territory as a transit point for drug trafficking from East Asia to Europe and the United States. The Nigerian Government is, therefore, leaving no stone unturned to fight drug trafficking in cooperation with other countries, including the United States.

Cooperation with the U.S. in this area of mutual concern has fundamentally improved since General Abacha assumed office as Head of State in November 1993. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) team in the U.S. is cooperating with the Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in joint operation, trading and exchange of data. ■

Nigeria...Truly, Peace Makers And Peace Keepers

In 1990, Nigeria led the West African international peace keeping force which succeeded in drastically reducing the fighting in Liberia, created a safe haven in Monrovia and produced a favorable environment for the return to constitutionality in Liberia at a time when that country was the focus of U.S. policy in Africa and when American marines were transferred from that area to the Gulf. It is fitting that Nigeria's capital, Abuja, should be the venue of the most successful peace conference on Liberia resulting in the setting up of a Transitional Interim National Government.

Nigeria also participated and is still participating in peace keeping efforts in Bosnia, the Middle East, the Gulf Region, Rwanda, Somalia and Iraq, in many cases in partnership with the U.S. It votes with the U.S. on many issues in the United Nations including such delicate matters as separation of Zionism from racism, and Haiti. It has led many African countries in resuming relations with Israel in 1992, and on several occasions, assisted the United States in combatting international terrorism. In March, 1995 a Nigerian military unit rescued an American, Mr. Tony Johnson, who had been held hostage by Chadian rebels.

Nigeria's internal problems should not constrain the United States and Nigeria from mutually benefitting from bilateral cooperation in the sphere of trade, investment, combatting drug trafficking, peace keeping operations, resolution of conflicts, or combatting international terrorism. There are many countries with similar and even more serious problems in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America with which the U.S. enjoys mutually beneficial cooperation in all fields. Nigeria hopes that the United States of America will maintain its policy of supporting the process of nation building and democratization in Nigeria by cooperating with the Government of General Sani Abacha towards this end.

NIGERIA: 35 YEARS IN GLOBAL PEACE KEEPING

The Nigerian Armed Forces have participated and are currently participating in the following peace keeping operations:

1960-1964: (ONUC) United Nations Operation in Congo

1962-1963: (UNSF) United Nations Security Force in West New Guinea

(Cont'd on Next Page)



"Nigeria, Truly, Peace Makers..."Cont'd



ROAD TO Democracy

Americans are concerned about some of the problems of nation-building and democratization in Nigeria. The slow pace of these two processes stems from two basic problems of Nigerian society: Perceptions and fears of domination and acquiring the culture of Western-style democracy.

The fundamental problem relates to perceptions and fears of domination and marginalization shared by the country's 300 different ethnic groups. Unfortunately, these fears and perceptions are exploited by selfish and intolerant members of the Nigerian political elite to promote their political ambitions. For instance, some of these people tend to over-emphasize the religious dimension of Nigeria's problems. The truth is that there is no deep animosity among Nigeria's major religious groups: Christian and Muslims. For example, among the Hausa-Fulanis and the Yorubas there are Muslims and Christians. But, there is no conflict between the religious groups in each of these ethnic communities. Conflict usually occurs when religious differences run along ethnic lines, such as between Hausa-Fulanis and the minorities in southern Kaduna State. The problems are basically ethnic and political.

NOTE: The Hausa-Fulanis are in the north; the Ibos are in the south-east and the Yorubas are in the south-west. Each of these is surrounded by smaller groups known as the minorities which, added together are more numerous than the major groups combined.

The Nigerian Administration has demonstrated a will to make the hard decisions. Only those detractors who deliberately persist in a negative view of Nigerians and their efforts fail to take account of all that Nigerians have achieved in a short time. Support of Nigeria's endeavors from the international community is sincerely requested. The Nigerian Administration welcomes well meaning advice on political, economic and financial matters.

Nigeria will continue to play its traditional role in the international system. Nigerians hope that the international community will also continue to respond positively to the bold and determined steps Nigerians have taken.

The Nigerian Government will remain committed to

working with the international community to terminate drug trafficking and organized crime. Substantial and notable progress has been recorded by the Nigerian Administration during the past and more resources will be committed to this issue in Nigeria's future programs. ■

COUNTDOWN TO DEMOCRACY: 1995 - 1998

1995: Last Quarter (October - December)

1. Approval of Draft Constitution
2. Lifting All Restrictions on Political Activities
3. Establishment of the National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (NECON)
4. CREATION OF:
 - Transitional Implementation Committee
 - National Reconciliation Commission
 - Federal Character Commission
5. Appointment of Panel for Creation of State, Local Government, Boundary Adjustment

**All of the above steps were successfully completed*

1996: First Quarter (January - March)

1. Election and Inauguration of Local Government Councils on Non-Party Basis

1996: Second Quarter (April - June)

1. Creation of States and Local Governments
2. Commence Process of Political Party Registration

1996: Third Quarter (July - September)

1. Registration of Political Parties
2. Delineation of Constituencies
3. Production of Authentic Voters Register

1996: Fourth Quarter (October - December)

1. Election of Local Government Councils at Party Levels

1997: First Quarter (January - March)

1. Inauguration of Party Elected Local Government Councils
2. Consolidation of New Political Party Structures
3. Tribunal Sitting and Conduct of Any Local Government Bye Elections

1997: Second Quarter (April - June)

1. Party-State Primaries to Select Candidates for State Assembly and Governorship Elections
2. Screening and Approval of Candidates by the National Electoral Commission of Nigeria

1997: Third Quarter (July - September)

1. State Assembly Elections

1997: Fourth Quarter (October - December)

1. Election of State Governors
2. Sitting of State Elections Tribunals and Conduct of Bye Elections

1998: First Quarter (January - March)

1. Inauguration of State Assembly and Governors
2. Party Primaries to Select Candidates for National Assembly Elections
3. National Assembly Election Campaigns

1998: Second Quarter (April - June)

1. National Assembly Elections
2. Primaries to Select Candidates for Presidential Elections
3. Commencement of Nationwide Campaigns for the Presidential Elections

1998: Third Quarter (July - September)

1. Presidential Elections

1998: 1st OCTOBER

Swearing in of New Elected President and Final Disengagement

- 1965-1966: (UNIPOM) United Nations India-Pakistan Observer Mission
- 1978-1983: (UNIFIL) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
- 1988-1991: (UNIIMOG) United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group
- 1989-1990: (UNTAG) United Nations Transition Assistance Group, Namibia
- 1992-1993: (UNTAC) United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia
- 1992-1994: (UNOSOM) United Nations Operation in Somalia
- 1992-1995: (UNOMOZ) United Nations Operation in Mozambique
- 1989- : (UNAVEM I, II, III) United Nations Angola Verification Mission
- 1991- : (UNIKOM) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission
- 1991- : (MINURSO) United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
- 1992- : (UNPROFOR) United Nations Protection Force
- 1993- : (UNAMIR) United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda
- 1994 : (UNASOG) United Nations Group in the Aouzou Strip

PEACE KEEPING UNDER BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

- 1964 - Tanzania
- 1978 - Chad

PEACE KEEPING UNDER OAU AND ECOWAS

- 1981 - Chad
- 1990 - Liberia/ECOMOG ■



Leader To Leader

NIGERIA AND U.S. RELATIONS



His Excellency General Sani Abacha, Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Born September 20, 1943 in Kano, Head of State Sani Abacha was educated at what is now known as Government College, Kano, he went on to the Nigerian Military Training College in Kaduna before leaving

for the Officers Cadet Training College at Aldershot in the United Kingdom. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1963. Over the next three decades, he would steadily rise across every single rank in the Nigerian army, the first and only soldier to accomplish this feat without having had to jump ranks due to political exigencies. In 1966 - Full Lieutenant, then Captain; 1969, Major; 1972, Lieutenant Colonel, then Colonel in 1975. Made a Brigadier in 1980, he became a Major General in 1984. In 1987, he became a three-star General, and a full 4-star General - the highest rank in the Nigerian army.

His steady, even paced progress is equally matched by the various responsibilities assigned him over the years. Most of them, including his battalion command during the Civil War, have been strategic in nature. Abacha, at various times, had served as a Battalion Commander; Director of Army Operations at the Army Headquarters; Commander of the 9th Mechanized Brigade; and 2nd Mechanized Brigade. He was also General Officer Commanding 2nd Mechanized Division before being appointed Chief of Army Staff as well as Minister of Defense, before assuming office on November 17, 1993 as Nigeria's 10th Head of State.

A family man and father of grown and younger children, General Abacha is devoted to his wife, Miriam Abacha, the Nigerian First Lady.

Nigeria's 10th Head of State, General Sani Abacha's march to prominence surely did not begin August 27, 1985 when as a Major General, he was chosen by his colleagues to announce a change of government to Nigerians. This time, the government that he had helped put in power, that of General Mohammed Buhari was replaced by that of General Ibrahim Babangida.

In the new administration, Abacha was appointed the Chief of Army Staff of the Nigerian Army. The main

agenda was political transition and economic reform. This would last eight years. At the end of it, on June 12, 1993, the Babangida administration conducted the presidential election in a transition program to return the country to popular government. These elections were, however, nullified amidst controversies and law suits. General Babangida stepped down as Head of State, and installed an interim government. This government was headed by Chief Ernest Shonekan.

The interim government of Chief Shonekan was given the mandate to conduct a fresh election by February 1994. However, Chief Shonekan's government was later to be ruled illegal by a law court and did not receive broad support of Nigerians. He voluntarily resigned and handed over the reins of Government to the senior most Nigerian Military Officer, General Sani Abacha.

Upon assuming office in November 1993, Abacha deciding to start anew, and in conformity with public demand dissolved the civilian parliaments that had been elected during Babangida's administration, and appointed military governors to replace the governors that were elected during the transition. Abacha also appointed a new Federal Executive Council composed of members from the two political parties that contested the election of June 12, 1993. But a great deal of the government's acceptance hinged on the setting up of a Constitutional Conference Committee to draft a new constitution for the country. This was the Committee whose recommendation formed the basis of the new "Law of the Land" destined to enter into the 21st Century as the 30-Year transition to a stable democracy.

In 1991, General Colin Powell, Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff fully aware of Nigeria's indisputably positive future, lavishly welcomed, then Nigerian Chief of Defense Staff and Minister of Defense, Abacha, for an official visit. From the Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, General Abacha was driven in a motorcade to the Pentagon where General Powell received him. He was subsequently honored by all branches of the American Armed forces: A Full Honor Parade by the U.S. Infantry at Fort Meyers; a Marine Corps Ceremonial and Guard Company salute in Washington DC; a U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard; an Air Force Honor Guard from Bolling Air Force Base, and even a U.S. Coast Guard salute from Alexandria, Virginia.

In treatment often reserved for statesmen, General

Abacha was invited to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Then President George Bush through his Secretary of Defense, Dick Cheney, awarded General Abacha the Distinguished Service Star, DSS, *the highest military honor due a foreigner*, for his commendable person-caring and sensitivity during the bloody Liberian Civil War, then raging in full, thus bringing credit to his country, Nigeria.

For all his personal and professional successes, General Abacha is said to be aware of the many problems still ahead. Despite the creative possibilities represented by the new political dispensation, the Head of State is a man of his word and is known to strictly abide by his professional soldier's word of honor.

General Abacha is also keenly aware, as he and his deputy, General Oladipo Diya, Chief of General Staff, told other officers upon assuming office, that a number of issues needed to be tackled at once - restoring confidence in the Armed Services, maintaining security throughout the country, reviving the economy through stricter accountability, ridding the land of fraudsters and drug couriers wherever they were found, and encouraging investment in a climate of stability and public security. And this was beside the challenge of finding a political formula that would assuage the many problems associated with the botched elections of 1993.

General Abacha demonstrates a shrewd understanding that the Nigerian populace was weary of military rule - hence his desire to erect a framework that would meet the test of time. His observation of the state of things in 1993 was as follows: *After nearly three and half decades of hopes raised and hopes dashed, it should not be surprising that Nigerians are wary and weary. Having gone through several years in which their faith in the national enterprise had been abused and affronted, our people's patience with government and almost total distrust of its functionaries can no longer be dismissed as merely cynical.*

The records show that on all these fronts, novel efforts have been made. The real challenge, many believe, is in systematically executing the new time-table laid out. This would start with local government elections in January 1996. As Nigeria marches forth for a *rendezvous with destiny*, General Abacha may well be that historical figure who could succeed in setting his country ready for a future in which the turmoil of the past would become customary history. ■

LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT



Congress of Racial Equality

Roy Innis
National Chairman

(212) 598-4000
Fax: (212) 529-8566

December 26, 1995

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20050

Dear Mr. President:

We were members of two large, diverse African-American delegations that visited Nigeria recently. We are concerned about the increasingly strained relations between the government of Nigeria and our country. For the sake of fairness, accuracy, balance, and harmony between our peoples, please allow us to address you on that subject. We bring to this discourse, hopefully, an equally eloquent (and dramatic) but more informed view - opposed to that which alleges to represent the African-American position on Nigeria.

We will not attempt to challenge every critique of Nigeria or of the Government of Gen. Sani Abacha in this brief address. But we will challenge the most egregious ones, such as, the flawed analogy equating apartheid South Africa with Nigeria. This error we believe, could cause Nigeria to suffer penalties that had been more justly applied to apartheid South Africa. We also hope to encourage a paradigm shift in the way America and the developed democracies of the Western world view developing countries like Nigeria.

If Nigeria (or any developing country) is to be judged fairly, one is compelled, morally and intellectually, to take transition from colonial domination. Nigeria is a large complex, heterogeneous state in search of the road to stability, economic viability, and democracy. It is subject to the same political evolutionary forces that Europe witnessed after the decline and withdrawal of Rome from its provinces in the early centuries A.D. Many centuries were needed for today's prosperous, stable, European democracies to evolve politically. Even today, many states around the world that were freed from external political and military domination have not yet evolved into stable democracies.

From its inception, God has blessed America: Except for Blacks, who were mostly slaves, the population of the young country was relatively homogeneous in religion, culture, and language. When America freed itself from British colonial rule, it had already adopted and institutionalized many social, economic, and political institutions that had taken the mother country (England) centuries to evolve. We must not measure the misfortune and misadventures of Nigeria's political evolution through a paradigm of our good fortune. More accurately, we must use models that are relevant to Nigeria and to most nations emerging from colonial domination with similar problems.

Our delegations - consisting of clergy, journalists, and civil and human rights professionals from around the country, travelled extensively and unhindered throughout Nigeria, including Ogoniland. The following are observations and conclusions arrived at mutually by members of the delegations:

- 1) All Nigerians expressed a longing for democracy and an end to military rule.
- 2) Almost all Nigerians - supporters and non-supporters of the present government believe that Gen. Sani Abacha is a man

of his word and that his government is necessary to stabilize the country, at this time, to save it from slipping into civil war.

- 3) Almost all Nigerians, again supporters and non-supporters - commented favorably on the October 1, 1995 speech of Gen. Abacha and believe that his plan for transition to democratic rule in Nigeria is viable and achievable.
- 4) Overwhelmingly Nigerians believe that their country is being singled out unfairly for pressure by America and the international community. Therefore, they welcome the involvement of African-Americans as mediators in the dispute between the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the government of the United States of America.

Our observations and conclusions refute the notion that Nigeria is the political and moral equivalent of apartheid South Africa: No such observations and conclusions could have been made about South Africa during its regressive period, apartheid. Nigeria is engaged in political evolution - apartheid South Africa was not; its political institutions were counter evolutionary. South Africa had established a racial oligarchy to preserve privileges for its white minority. Nigeria's government - admittedly a military one - is drawn from all parts of the country, and it does not serve the interest of any one interest, racial, or religious group.

The casus belli that led to shrill calls for increased diplomatic and economic pressures to be imposed on Nigeria was the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa. But was this a fair issue around which Nigeria should be penalized? Based on evidence obtained mostly from the Ogoni people in Nigeria and on honest reading of our own early and present day American history, we confidently answer NO! It is not our intention to demonize Mr. Saro-Wiwa; he advocated many good things. But like any of us, he had his flaws.

While the Ogoni people struggled peacefully to improve the quality of life in their home area, Ken Saro-Wiwa advocated (and even employed) methods that led to rebellion and murder in Ogoniland. It was not for the advocacy of good and necessary things that Mr. Saro-Wiwa was arrested, indicted, tried, convicted, and hanged. It was for his advocacy (and use) of methods that led to rebellion and murder in Ogoniland.

In America's early history, several rebellions were suppressed by the Federal government. One of the most violent and murderous ones, the John Brown rebellion in 1859, was the precursor that ignited the Civil War - the largest and most violent rebellion in our history. Like Ken Saro-Wiwa, John Brown advocated a good thing - freeing the slaves. But methods that led to rebellion and murder. John Brown was captured (by Col. Robert E. Lee, and officer in the Federal Army of the United States, but later, the commanding general of the Confederate army) tried, convicted, and hanged one month later. John Brown was an immensely popular hero to the many abolitionists in America and abroad, as is Ken Saro-Wiwa today. Numerous appeals to save Brown's life were made to the authorities, but all were rejected or ignored.

The legitimacy of the tribunal that convicted Mr. Saro-Wiwa and eight of his associates and that sentenced them to death by hanging, has been questioned by environmentalists, enthusiasts of Chief Mashood Abiola, and by some civil and human rights professionals. But those critics of the tribunal have presented no evidence to support that notion; they have presented only ad hominem arguments. Civil disturbances tribunals have been used as forums of justice in Nigeria for many years, surviving several governments, including the regime of Gen. Obasanjo. They are

not pseudo-legal devices concocted by the government of Gen. Sani Abacha, as has been insinuated by his enemies. Ken Saro-Wiwa was tried, convicted, and sentenced for the murder of four Ogoni Chiefs who opposed his violent methods and his secessionist schemes, under the Civil Disturbances (special tribunal) Act, as amended in 1990. He was not tried by a military tribunal nor was he court-martialed. Two of the three judges on the tribunal were civilians from the Federal Court of Appeals, the third member of the panel was a military lawyer. The court was headed by one of the civilian judges.

Supporters of Ken Saro-Wiwa have called the trial disparagingly a summary proceeding, when in fact, it took the panel eight months to convict nine of the fifteen defendants - acquitting the remaining six. The Nuremberg (WWII) tribunal needed only eleven months to try twenty four German war crime defendants. In contrast, in our country, John Wilkes Booth's co-conspirators in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, Mary Surratt and her associates, were tried by a military court in Washington, D.C. that took less than eight weeks to convict all nine defendants. The court, led by Major Gen. Lew Wallace, the author of Ben Hur, sentenced four of the conspirators to hang. At the urging of President Andrew Johnson, Abe Lincoln's successor, Mary Surratt and three of her associates were hanged - just forty eight hours after they were convicted.

Nigeria is a young country, in its 35th year. Is it fair to condemn and to punish Nigeria for operating as we, as a nation, did at twice that age? Mistakes will be made, but it is exactly at those times that more contact is indicated, not less. More help should be offered, not sanctions! Nigeria is not a vestal virgin, but neither was America in its 70th plus year, neither America today, nor England, nor Nelson Mandela's South Africa. Machiavelli was right: No nation or government is pure. Nigeria should not be judged by a double standard; it should be judged by the same standard that is reserved for those countries with most favored nation status.

Nigeria is inexorably on the road to democracy. We should help to accelerate the process, not break the momentum. The Abacha government has announced a measurable timetable for elections. Let us monitor it. It allows Nigerians time to adopt, invent, and institutionalize democratic instruments at local, state, regional, and national levels. Let us not blame Sani Abacha for the cumulative sum of the mistakes and wrongdoings of the previous civilian and military governments. To do so is not just wrong, it is dishonest and unfair.

Finally, Mr. President, we can agree that regardless of which side one is committed to in the Nigerian debate, the voice of Ken Saro-Wiwa should not be heard to the exclusion of the voices of the four murdered Chiefs, for whose deaths he was convicted. The voices of Mr. Saro-Wiwa's wife and children should not silence the voices of the widows and children of Chief Edward Kobani, Chief Samuel Orage, Chief Albert Badey, and Chief Theophilus Orage - the murdered victims of Ken Saro-Wiwa.

Sincerely,

Roy Innis
(For Members of the Delegations)



WHY WE TRAVELLED TO NIGERIA... WHAT WE SAW...WHAT WE PROPOSE

By: Dorothy Leavell,
President, National Newspaper Publishers Association



L-R: Lenora Carter, Cleretta Blackmon, Carole Geary, Askia Muhammad, Dorothy R. Leavell, Nigerian Ambassador Zubair Mahmud Baraden Kazaure, Roy Innis, Bernard V. Foster, Dr. Joan Wallace, Ibn Sharrieff, Robert Bogle, William Reed, Terry B. Jones, and (far right) Jane Woods-Miller
Not in picture-Sandra Stewart, publisher of the Toledo Journal

It was late July or early August that the Nigerian situation and a direct contact with the government of Nigeria was established with me as President of the National

Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA). While I had been in attendance at other times when Ambassador Malam Zubair Kazaure, the Nigerian Ambassador to the United States spoke at our association's conventions and workshops, Dr. Maurice Dawkins brought a different perspective that provided an opportunity, as I saw it, that could provide an international focus for our organization. It was that first meeting that propelled me and a delegation of NNPA Publishers on a one-week tour of some major cities in Nigeria.

Dr. Dawkins' concern centered around the fact that the Foreign Minister of Nigeria, Tom Ikimi would be visiting the United States and principally only have an opportunity to be interviewed by the "mainstream press." We agreed that the Black Press should have an opportunity and frankly should be taking the lead interviews and contact with Mr. Ikimi. Because of the United States sanctions I would have to travel to New York City to meet Mr. Ikimi. For you see, the U.S. forbids government officials of Nigeria to travel to other cities other than the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

Dr. Dawkins made the necessary arrangements and the meeting was set for August 9th. The delegation of NNPA members that were in attendance included former NNPA President, Robert W. Bogle, Ernest H. Pitt and Dr. Dawkins.

Further, I felt and continue to feel that African-Americans must take the lead in helping our ancestral brothers and sisters in this country, as Jewish leaders are very active in providing assistance and promoting the cause of their brethren in Israel. For too long, the Black Press has not asserted its power and influence in a positive way for our native land Africa.

On September 26, 1995 when NNPA Publishers: Terry Jones, NNPA's 2nd Vice President; Jane Woods, NNPA's

Secretary; Robert W. Bogle, former NNPA President; NNPA Board Members, Carole Geary and Cleretta Blackmon; Bernard V. Foster, Publisher of the Skanner Publications; Sandra Stewart, Publisher of the Toledo Journal; Lenora Carter, Publisher of the Houston Forward Times; Ibn Sharrieff, Publisher of the Tri-City Journal; Bill Reed, Executive Director of NNPA; Askia Muhammad, a Black Press Journalist; and yours truly leading the delegation, met in New York we had no details of our pending trip. We all met at JFK International Airport, where we had dinner together at a nearby hotel and awaited a midnight flight on our journey.

WHAT WE SAW IN NIGERIA

What we saw when we did get to Nigeria was not what we had been prepared to see. Before we left we had been told by a Clinton administration employee that the State Department would be issuing a directive that advised travellers to Nigeria that they were doing so "at their own risk," and that caused me some apprehension. But once we got there, I did not have one sleepless night in Nigeria.

Lagos is a crowded urban center. But, except for street and highway traffic, which is like nowhere I've ever been, I did not see people or conditions significantly worse than what I see everyday on the streets near my office on the Southside of Chicago. Everywhere, we saw people getting up early and often racing to work.

GENERAL SANI ABACHA & CHIEF M.K.O. ABIOLA

My mother always told me that as long as I tell the truth, I will not have to "remember what story" I tell this person or that person. Well



At the State dinner members of the Black Press delegation met Nigerians, whom they conversed with during the evening.

in Nigeria, we saw and heard person after person - inside and outside the government - confirming the important story we were

learning about Nigeria's struggle to be a strong, free and modern nation, ruled by democratic principles and self-determination.

While people of every political persuasion in Nigeria, work for the day when democracy will be a firmly

established tradition, and when military rule will be a thing of the past, many Nigerians insist on a stable,

peaceful transition to democratic government, rather than chaos and the possibility of another bloody Civil War. One such person we met is Ambassador Baba Gana Kingibe, the Vice President running mate of Chief Abiola. He is now Interior Minister in the current government, and served in the transitional National Unity Government, following the June 12, 1993 elections. Ambassador Kingibe worked as hard as anyone for the election victory of his Social Democratic Party, but now he is working **inside the government** for a better day for Nigeria. We also met with Chief Abiola's attorney Chief Ojo Maduekewe.

Later we met Chief Tony A. Anenih, founder and former Chairman of the SDP. Chief Anenih shared with us an open letter he wrote, "advising" Chief Abiola, following the elections of members to the Constitutional Conference, convened by General Sani Abacha in 1994.

WHAT WE SAW IN OGONILAND

The nine Ogoni leaders executed recently were convicted of instigating the brutal machete murders and incineration of the corpses of four of the Ogoni opponents and elders who opposed writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and his violent, secessionist tactics. They were not on trial for opposing the government. They were not on trial for demanding fair treatment for the minority Ogoni people. They were not on trial for demanding environmental protection for their troubled region. As sad and untimely as their execution may have been, I am doubly saddened because the blood of the original Ogoni martyrs - Chiefs Edward Kobani and Samuel Orage, Chief Orage's older brother Theophilus, and Mr. Albert Badey - are forgotten as though, somehow they deserved to die, because they were so called "pro-government" Ogoni elders. We met Dr. Gary B. Letton.

WHAT WE PROPOSE

While we have been criticized, and I believe unjustly, by many who have sought to discredit the Black Press' role in seeking democracy for Nigeria, we stand on the knowledge that many who seek to discredit us only speak of "what they heard from afar." We are proud of the fact that we can say we came and we saw - NO, we did not see all that would be necessary to answer all the issues raised by several quarters, including the U.S. State Department, disgruntled native Nigerians, supporters of Abiola, etc., but, we are confident that we have called on the United States government to accord the state diplomatic and foreign policies to Nigeria as they have to countries such as China, known for the human atrocities perpetrated upon its people.

(Cont'd on Next Page)



"WHY WE TRAVELLED TO NIGERIA..."Cont'd



Black Press delegates, including Terry Jones (center) listen to a leader in Ogoniland explain the destruction and vandalism that occurred in the oil fields in Ogoniland

We have called on the United States government not to cut off all relations with Nigeria, for we know that nothing constructive will occur from non-communication and certainly if the end result is really for democracy to prevail in Nigeria then the United States of

America must continue in its role to help promote democracy all over the world, Yes Mr. President even in Nigeria.

On the subject of Democracy, we agree with many Nigerians we spoke with, that the U.S. form of democracy will not work in Nigeria, we believe they deserve an opportunity to find a democracy that will



During a visit to the Ooni of Ife, Tribal Leader in Ife, Nigerian members of the Black Press delegation posed with the Ooni and his tribe

worked and is not always working in the interest of a large segment of citizens...the African-American.

Lastly, we ask that the American public keep an objective eye and ear open on the Nigerian situation, for it is my belief that all the REAL concerns and objectives for these actions against Nigeria are yet to be

fit their unique situation very much different than that of the United States. We are talking about hundreds of tribes, language differences and many other factors that must be taken into consideration. But, most of all, we remind the United States government that U.S.A. democracy has not



The Black Press delegation was hosted by the First Lady, Maryam Abacha, during their fact-finding trip shown outside her office in Abuja

revealed.

This was the first of what we expect will be several trips by the Black Press to Nigeria. We hope that other areas of concern such as education and health care expressed to us by those on the opposition side will be investigated upon subsequent trips. My greatest concern in forming an opinion on many of the issues is because those who say we were "hoodwinked," that our opinions are wrong, have yet to provide any documentation to substantiate their charges. But, we are certain that the position the Black Press delegation has taken will be vindicated. ■

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR THE OTHER SIDE: OGO NI TRIAL AND EXECUTIONS

The Nigerians are learning the hard way that the majority media and the international liberal left network is a dangerous foe. Black Americans can remember for generations how their actions were given a negative spin and their image distorted by white writers and their Black allies who subscribe to a leftist ideology. Pragmatic activists for social change always had to remember to be twice as careful and obey all of the laws scrupulously, to avoid becoming victims of police brutality, false arrest, unjust convictions, mob lynchings and hate bombings. The majority press could always be counted on to give a worst case scenario of the Blacks and a best case scenario of the whites involved. Blacks were presumed guilty while whites were presumed innocent.

Now in the Western media we see the Nigerians becoming victims of the same kind of racist double standard, depicted by misinformation and disinformation. The current outcry against the Nigerian Special Civil Disorders Tribunal's decision to execute Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others for the murder of four elders of the Ogoni Tribe is a case in point.

The fact that the murders took place in a gruesome and barbaric way in May of 1994 is not described in the news. The fact that Ken Saro-Wiwa formed a Youth Wing within the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) and unleashed a lawless reign of terror intimidating any who did not adopt the policies they advocated is not reported in the news.

The fact that they became a vigilante group loyal only to Saro-Wiwa, and in 1993 burned ballot boxes and prevented people from free assembly to discuss their views is not reported. The fact that in 1994 they invaded the palace, picked up the original founders of the Ogoni People's Movement who disagreed with Ken Saro-Wiwa and murdered them in cold blood is not reported.

It is not reported that those who escaped the mindless killings called for government protection, and other law abiding citizens started wondering why a "group of bandits" should be allowed to be a law unto themselves, print their own flags, make their own laws, kill their neighbors-the Adonis, the Okrikas and the Nadokis, sack police stations, chase magistrates out of courts, beat up oil workers, blow up oil stations, put up 150 road blocks and make Ogoniland unsafe for business activity and human habitation.

It is not reported that only 1.27% of Nigeria's oil production comes from Ogoniland, and Shell Oil Company stopped production in May

1993 without decreasing total Nigerian oil output. The Adonis produce 23% of crude oil production in the Rivers State and have never had to resort to terrorist acts against the oil companies. Is it possible that Saro-Wiwa had motives other than environmental protection in his campaign of violence?

It is not reported that a federal court of appeals judge headed a special tribunal to try the suspects including Saro-Wiwa. They had free access to counsel of their choice. They intimidated potential prosecution witnesses. They had an open trial and the international press, and human rights groups were free to come and observe.

Finally, it is not reported that the tribunal acquitted six of those on trial.

To read the wire service reports that have been uncritically accepted and copied by the American majority press, one would only imagine that an innocent intellectual had been framed and false allegations had been made, an unjust decision made, and an unjustified execution had taken place. One would assume that a Nobel Peace nominee could not possibly be a murderer or a terrorist determined to overthrow the government. The Nigerian Government is presumed guilty. The man who killed the elders of his tribe is presumed innocent by a press that had made up its mind and doesn't want to be confused by any new facts.

To watch the outrage expressed by the Commonwealth, the European Union and the United States, one would think that Nigeria was not a sovereign nation with the right to conduct business and maintain law and order within its borders just as Red China, North Vietnam, North Korea, Syria, and many other nations are without our racist neocolonial interference.

Would the Nigerians do well to learn from the Black American experience and use the white power structure to achieve its own objectives? Perhaps it would have been better not to execute, in return for airplane landing rights and lifting restrictions on the travel of Nigerian High Officials and lifting restrictions due to alleged drug transshipment, charges and decertification.

President Mandela and other Africans could defend the "engagement and dialogue" approach to bringing Nigeria back into the international community. Then the Coalition for Fairness to Nigeria could build support in America for an equitable United States policy replacing the policy of sanctions and isolation that some powerful forces among American Africanists are advocating.

Now that the die is cast and the international campaign to destabilize and demonize the current Nigerian government is underway, there is a need for an honest approach. Someone like President Carter or Pope John Paul needs to look at both sides of the Ogoniland story. Someone needs to come from the high moral ground and objectively research, analyze and evaluate the facts. An open-minded delegation of African-American clergy should follow the example of America's Black press and go on a fact-finding mission to Nigeria. They should meet with the Nigerian political parties, the press, the human rights groups, even critics of General Abacha, advocates for civilian rule and minority rights. They should then return for a debriefing with the United States' State Department, the Congress and the President. "Truth crushed to earth can rise again" was one of Martin Luther King's favorite quotations. Nigeria should have faith that the non-violent peace maker America was right.

The generals of the military tribunal in Nigeria and General Abacha had just recently been commended by President Jimmy Carter for ending the cycle of violence. The coup and counter coup syndrome had been broken. The new path to democracy had been clearly laid out by the Pope's Constitutional Conference and endorsed by the Head of State. They had just commuted the sentences of General Obasanjo and others who were slated for execution for attempting to assassinate General Abacha and his cabinet. Now all of these good, positive, constructive things are cast aside by the international media because of the Ogoni murder trial and executions, the January 1996 local elections are no longer considered a step in the right direction. The plan for state elections in 1997 are brushed off as unimportant. The commitment to hold federal elections in 1998 is scoffed at. Surely the arrogance of the British and Americans who have this attitude reminds us of the old colonialism, the new neo-colonialism and the pervasive racism that Black Americans are well aware of. Now is the time for opinion making men and women to seize an historic opportunity and initiate a truth-seeking campaign so that a peace-process can have a chance in Nigeria.

Submitted by Reverend Maurice A. Dawkins, freelance writer for the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Black Media Incorporated. Dawkins was a candidate for the United States Senate in 1988 and has for forty years been in the forefront of the American Civil Rights Movement, and was a fighter for African Freedom with the American Committee on Africa, the American Negro Leadership Conference on Africa and TransAfrica. ■

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